

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 22, 2008. Claims 1 to 29 are now pending in the application, of which Claims 1 to 5, 8 to 13 and 16 to 26 have been withdrawn from further consideration due to a restriction requirement, and with Claims 27 to 29 having been newly-added. Of the claims under consideration, Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 27 and 29 are independent.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 7, 14, 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,825,942 (Kamiyama). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The common concept of invention defined in each independent claim is that the instruction operation means of the scanner connection apparatus is enabled in accordance with data from a network, and, after the instruction operation means is enabled and an instruction is input from the instruction operation means, the apparatus instructs the scanner device to start reading in accordance with an instruction from the instruction operation means and transmits image data from the scanner device to the network. That is, both of an instruction of the start of reading and an instruction of a transmission are made by the instruction operation means of the claimed apparatus.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 6 is directed to a scanner connection apparatus, having a network interface and a scanner interface for connecting to a scanner device, which is connected to a network and which outputs image data read by the scanner device to a control apparatus via the network interface, comprising instruction

operation means for instructing an operation of the scanner device, and for instructing a transmission, via the network interface, of data received from the scanner device, input means for receiving, from the control apparatus, data via the network interface then displaying a pattern for the instruction operation means in accordance with the received data on a predetermined display unit, enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction on the predetermined display unit and outputting an input into a predetermined instruction input unit from a user to the control apparatus via the network interface, and scanner communication means for receiving, via the network interface, an instruction command to the scanner device issued by the control apparatus in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means then outputting the received command to the scanner interface for reading operation of the scanner device, and receiving data from the scanner device via the scanner interface in accordance with the instruction of the instruction operation means, and transmitting the data, received from the scanner device, to the control apparatus via the network interface.

Claim 7 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 6.

Claim 14 includes features along the lines of Claim 7, but is more specifically directed to a scanner connection apparatus which connects a scanner device, comprising a network interface configured to connect to a network, a scanner interface connected to the scanner device, instruction operation means for instructing an operation of the scanner device, and for instructing a transmission, via the network interface, of data received from the scanner device, command execution means for receiving an instruction command from a predetermined control apparatus on the network via the network

interface, and enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device, input means for inputting an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device after the enabling of the instruction operation means to input the instruction, and output means for outputting data, received from the scanner device by the scanning operation of the scanner device, to the control apparatus via the network interface in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means.

Claim 15 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 14.

The applied art of Kamiyama is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 6, 7, 14 and 15, and in particular, with regard to Claims 6 and 7, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a scanner connection apparatus i) receiving, from a control apparatus, data via a network interface then displaying a pattern for an instruction operation means in accordance with the received data on a predetermined display unit, enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction on the predetermined display unit and outputting an input into a predetermined instruction input unit from a user to the control apparatus via the network interface, and ii) scanner communication means for receiving, via the network interface, an instruction command to the scanner device issued by the control apparatus in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means then outputting the received command to the scanner interface for reading operation of the scanner device, and receiving data from the scanner device via the scanner interface in accordance with the instruction of the instruction operation means, and transmitting the data, received from the scanner device, to the control apparatus via the network interface. With regard to Claims 14 and 15, the applied art is not seen to disclose

or to suggest the features of a scanner connection apparatus having i) command execution means for receiving an instruction command from a predetermined control apparatus on the network via the network interface, and enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device, ii) input means for inputting an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device after the enabling of the instruction operation means to input the instruction, and iii) output means for outputting data, received from the scanner device by the scanning operation of the scanner device, to the control apparatus via the network interface in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means.

On the contrary, the cited reference of Kamiyama discloses a network scanner apparatus 100 which stores read image data into the temporally storage means 102 to transmit the read image data. According to Kamiyama, however, the transmission of the read image data is made when the apparatus receives a request from a PC 100 on a network, where the request is generated in response to an operation of the input instruction operation means 111 of the PC rather than the network scanner apparatus 100 (see column 5, lines 52-65). The network scanner apparatus 100 has an input operation means (the image input operation means 105), but, even if the input operation means is operated by a user, the read image is not transmitted to the network. That is, according to Kamiyama, the both of operations at the PC 100 and the network scanner apparatus are required to scan and transmit the image data. Accordingly, Kamiyama is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a scanner connection apparatus i) receiving, from a control apparatus, data via a network interface then displaying a pattern for an instruction operation

means in accordance with the received data on a predetermined display unit, enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction on the predetermined display unit and outputting an input into a predetermined instruction input unit from a user to the control apparatus via the network interface, and ii) scanner communication means for receiving, via the network interface, an instruction command to the scanner device issued by the control apparatus in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means then outputting the received command to the scanner interface for reading operation of the scanner device, and receiving data from the scanner device via the scanner interface in accordance with the instruction of the instruction operation means, and transmitting the data, received from the scanner device, to the control apparatus via the network interface (Claims 6 and 7), or the features of a scanner connection apparatus having i) command execution means for receiving an instruction command from a predetermined control apparatus on the network via the network interface, and enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device, ii) input means for inputting an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device after the enabling of the instruction operation means to input the instruction, and iii) output means for outputting data, received from the scanner device by the scanning operation of the scanner device, to the control apparatus via the network interface in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means (Claims 14 and 15). Thus, Claims 6, 7, 14 and 15 are not believed to be anticipated by Kamiyama.

Claim 27 also includes features along the lines of Claims 6, 7, 14 and 15, is more specifically directed to a scanner connection apparatus which connects a scanner

device, comprising a network interface configured to connect to a network, a scanner interface connected to the scanner device, instruction operation means for instructing an operation of the scanner device, and for instructing a transmission, via the network interface, of data received from the scanner device, command execution means for receiving an instruction command from a predetermined control apparatus on the network via the network interface, and enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device, input means for inputting an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device after the enabling of the instruction operation means to input the instruction, and inputting an instruction designating plural destinations, in which different transmission categories are included, for data received from the scanner device, and output means for outputting data, received from the scanner device by the scanning operation of the scanner device to the network via the network interface in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means.

Claim 29 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 27.

Similar to Claims 6, 7, 14 and 15, Kamiyama is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 27 and 29, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of i) command execution means for receiving an instruction command from a predetermined control apparatus on the network via the network interface, and enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device, input means for inputting an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device after the enabling of the instruction operation means to input the instruction, and inputting an instruction designating plural destinations,

in which different transmission categories are included, for data received from the scanner device, and output means for outputting data, received from the scanner device by the scanning operation of the scanner device to the network via the network interface in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means.

As discussed above, in Kamiyama, the both of operations at the PC 100 and the network scanner apparatus are required to scan and transmit the image data. Thus, Kamiyama is not seen to teach the foregoing features of Claims 27 and 29 and Claims 27 to 29 are believed to be allowable.

As a formal matter, Applicants note that the Office Action returned a copy of the December 13, 2007 Information Disclosure Statement that was signed by the Examiner, but the returned document did not include any initials indicating consideration of the cited art, nor did it include an indication that the references have been considered except where lined through. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to return another copy of the IDS to include an indication that the art cited therein has been considered.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believe to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
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be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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